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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I would like to express my disappointment in the DOJ's meaningless deal with Microsoft. The DOJ under Ashcroft seems much too eager to settle this matter with no serious changes to Microsoft or even financial penalties for abusing their monopoly power.

Microsoft holds way too much power in the computer world. They keep bringing out new products with new features, thus crushing any competing software providing the same services. But as anyone knows, they do not fix the tens of thousands of bug's in their software. Nor do they address their serious security issues, until after the damage is done. In a competitive market place, a company would not stay in business if they had a track record like Microsoft's. The consumer would stop buying a shoddy product and use something else. But the fact of the matter is that Microsoft has no real Competition, so consumers are left with no other Choice.

At first Bill Gates thought nothing of the internet, even as Netscape was happily turning out new versions of Navigator. Then a light went on in Gates head. People can shop on the internet! People can pay for services like news sights. If Microsoft did not create a program to compete with Netscape, MS would not control the internet and web commerce like they do with the desktop OS space.

So MS created explorer. Then they gave it away for free, in order to gain market share against the established Netscape. But that did not give them the kind of market share they needed. So they decided to merge their OS which has no rivals with their poorly adopted Web browser, thus giving the OS monopoly to the web software. Netscape could no longer compete against a product that was included in an OS.

Which brings up another point. What company or investor would put money in a project that would try to challenge Microsoft in the computer operating system? How would you get distribution from the big computer makers like Dell, when Microsoft charges a TAX for every machine sold whether or not it has Windows loaded on it. A small company called Be tried to gain market share for their OS, but could not get distribution or bundled with the Major Pc makers. Even the FREE linux is not readily available from the Major pc makers.

Microsoft now wants to charge a subscription fee for their software. Why? Because many users are not upgrading their software every time Microsoft releases a new version. So MS is having a hard time sustaining their huge growth. So you make them pay whether they want to upgrade or not, thus becoming a "utility" like service.

I believe that if MS is not made to play fair, they will become unstoppable. I see a future in which MS will have their own bank, and their own credit cards for Windows users. So when you shop on line with a windows computer, you will buy things from MS owned sites, with MS credit cards, using MS banks. All that's really left for MS is to start a shipping service! Thus MS would be stepping on the toes of Big Banks and using their monopoly power in the desktop space to steal the business of well established industries that can not compete because they do not own the desktop OS monopoly.

It is clear that MS abused their Monopoly power, continues to do so, and will not stop until they are forced to! They Have caused Billions of dollars of damage to users, business, and the government by having such gaping security holes that allow devastating email viruses like " I Love you", "Love Bug", and "Melissa" to shut down and cause havoc for millions of Windows users. They should be liable for damages for these security issues. IF they were, they would fix the problems!

If MS is split up, they would then Have to be more concerned with fixing all the bugs and security issues with their operating system instead of trying to integrate every feature under the sun into their core operating system, because this would no longer be an option.

Please do not let MS have the ability to continue to stifle the computer industry and control how many business that thrive off it operate. Split them up and let new Competition begin. Please stop them before it is too late.

Ben